

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6, 8-25, 27-29, 31-36 and 40 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17-22, 25, 27-29, 31, 32, 35 and 40 have been rejected and claims 16, 23, 24, 33, 34 and 36 have been objected to. By this amendment, Applicants have cancelled claim 17.

Amended claim 1 is directed to a shoe or leather care product in the form of a water continuous emulsion, which includes a high amount of an aqueous phase, an oil phase and an emulsifier system that includes a particular co-emulsifier. The co-emulsifier comprises a multivalent metal soap. The emulsion so formed has a VOC below 22 wt%, based on the weight of total product. Claims 16 and 23 have been amended so that they are now independent claims, which are substantially the same as claim 1 except the co-emulsifier comprises a multivalent metal soap formed from a first component chosen from the group of carboxylic acids, fatty acids and a combination thereof and a second component which is a multivalent cation.

Applicants respond specifically to the issues raised in the Final Office Action mailed on June 21, 2006 and the Advisory Action mailed on August 18, 2006 as follows:

***Specification***

Applicants have amended the specification to add a paragraph after the last line of page 22. Support for this paragraph is found in claims 16 and 19 of the corresponding European Patent Application EP 03076143.1. Under Section 608.01(l) of the MPEP, the Applicants have the right to add this additional disclosure and it is not new matter.

***Claim Rejections -- 35 USC § 112***

Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification. Specifically, the Examiner has found that claim 19 contains new matter because there is no support for claiming all carboxylic acids, all fatty acids and any combinations of these acids that have an HLB value below 13. Applicants have amended the specification so that there is now support for claim 19.

Claims 16 and 19 of the corresponding European Patent Application EP 03076143.1 (published as EP 1 469 051 A1 -- a copy is being submitted herewith) from which the present application claims priority read:

16. Shoe or leather care product according to any of the claims 13-15, wherein the co-emulsifier is a mixture of carboxylic acids and/or fatty acids in combination with multivalent neutralising agents and/or multivalent metal cations and/or multivalent metal soaps and/or di-, tri- or multi- amine soaps and/or a mixture of any fatty acid derivatives including fatty acid esters and/or fatty alcohols and/or fatty acid amides and/or fatty acid amines and/or fatty acid amine oxides and/or any derivatives thereof.

19. Shoe or leather care product according to claim 16, wherein each constituent material has a HLB value below 13, preferably below 10, more preferably below 8.

Applicants have amended the specification to incorporate the disclosure in claims 16 and 19 of EP 03076143.1. Section 608.01(l) of the MPEP states that:

In establishing a disclosure, applicant may rely not only on the description and drawing as filed but also on the original claims if their content justifies it.

Where subject matter not shown in the drawing or described in the description is claimed in the application as filed, and such original claim itself constitutes a clear disclosure of this subject matter, then the claim should be treated on its merits, and requirement made to amend the drawing and description to show this

subject matter. The claim should not be attacked either by objection or rejection because this subject matter is lacking in the drawing and description. It is the drawing and description that are defective, not the claim.

In view of the amended specification, claim 19 does not contain new matter. The claim for “all carboxylic acids, all fatty acids and any combinations of these acids that have an HLB value below 13” has been properly incorporated from the corresponding European Patent Application EP 03076143.1 so that there is now support in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 19 based on a finding that it contains new matter be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 20 and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite based on a finding that “it is unclear how and why the multivalent, i.e. divalent and trivalent cations do not react with the other components.” Applicants have amended claim 1 so that “the co-emulsifier comprises a multivalent metal soap.” One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that multivalent metal soaps are formed when carboxylic acids and/or fatty acids are combined with multivalent cations.

Claims 17 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because they are identical. Applicants have amended claim 22 to overcome this rejection.

***Claim Rejections -- 35 USC § 103(a)***

Claims 1-6, 8-15, 17, 22, 25, 27-29, 31, 32, 35 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No, 4,554,083 to Soldanski et al. (“Soldanski”).

Soldanski discloses a liquid leather-care composition containing: a wax; lanolin; a dispersible; film-forming aliphatic polyurethane resin; a water-soluble polymeric polycarboxylic acid; a non-ionic emulsifier; a water-soluble hydroxyalkylamine; at least one of perfume oils, preservatives, foam inhibitors, emulsifying aids, and dyes; and a liquid flow promoter.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete “a multivalent amine” from the co-emulsifier and amended claim 1 now requires that the “co-emulsifier comprises a multivalent metal soap.” Soldanski neither teaches nor suggests a co-emulsifier that includes “a multivalent metal soap.” Accordingly, amended claim 1 and the claims which depend from claim 1 are not obvious in view of Soldanski and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection based on Soldanski be withdrawn.

***Objected to Claims***

In the Final Office Action, claims 16, 23, 24, 33, 34 and 36 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected claim. Applicants have amended claims 16 and 23 so that they are now in independent form and so that “the co-emulsifier comprises a multivalent metal soap formed from a first component chosen from the group of carboxylic acids, fatty acids and a combination thereof and a second component which is a multivalent cation.” Accordingly, independent claims 16 and 23 and dependent claims 19-21, 24, 41 and 42, which depend from them, should now be in allowable form. Applicants have not amended claims 33, 34 and 36, which depend on amended claim 1. However, the amendments to claim 1 should place these claims in proper condition for allowance.

***Amended and Newly Added Claims***

Applicants have amended claim 22 and added new claims 41-43. These claims do not contain new matter since claim 43 contains the same limitation as claim 16 and claims 22, 41 and 42 are supported in the specification at page 43, lines 23-27, which states:

Alternatively 0-10% multivalent metal soap constituted of any of the metal cations and acids mentioned above can be added. Non-restrictive examples are calciumstearate, calciumlaurate, calciumarachinate, zincstearate, zirclaurate, zincarachinate, magnesiumstearate, aluminumstearate.

***No Additional Claim Fees Are Due***

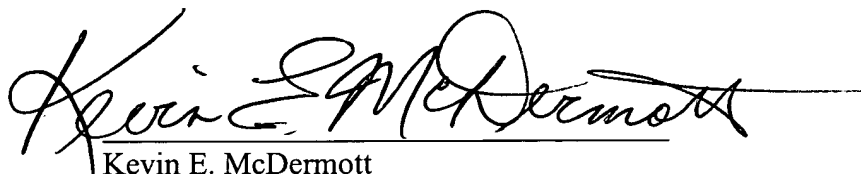
No additional claims fees are due. The Applicants amended claims 16 and 23 to independent claims so that the application now contains a total of three independent claims. The total number of claims is 36 (seven claims have been cancelled). When the original application was filed, Applicants paid the fee for a total of 40 claims.

***Conclusion***

The Applicants submit that the amendments to the claims overcome the rejections and that the amended claims are not obvious in view of the prior art. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections based on these references and allow the claims.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments relating to this election, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin E. McDermott", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin E. McDermott  
Registration No.: 35,946  
Attorney for Applicants

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP  
6900 Jericho Turnpike  
Syosset, New York 11791  
(516) 822-3550

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